

## **Kentucky State Report**

Submitted by: Karen House

Kentucky has four State owned Intermediate Care Facilities, three are run by Bluegrass.Org and one by ResCare.

We have a total of 230 residents in ICFs. The state has two specialty clinics. They offer care to meet the specific needs to those with Intellectual/developmental disabilities. There is still a push to move residents into the Supports for Community Living (SCL) waiver.

However, our Commissioner of Health and Family Services does acknowledge that the state does not have adequate services available to serve those with the most severe needs.

Commissioner Morris also made the comment at the last HB144 committee, that no one has been forced to go to court and fight to keep their loved one in their ICF (home), since we went to court with our sister, two years ago.

There are no new admissions to ICFs unless the individuals have an emergency court order.

One of the largest SCL companies in our state (ResCare) has been forced to shut down, due to abuse and neglect. 12 of the residents living in the Somerset homes were readmitted to the ICF that many of them had transitioned out of.

They have now been closed in at least three cities.

There are 4,000 residents living on the Supports for Community Living waiver (living in group homes) and 9,000 on the Michelle P waiver (receiving at-home services). There are long waiting lists for both waivers.

Cheri Ellis-Reeves has been appointed, by the Governor's office, to The Technical Advisory Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

She has attended two meetings so far and has joined one subcommittee.

We continue to attend the HB144 meetings along with others from our family group, we are hoping to get a parent appointed to that committee as well.

Cheri and I have met with Representative Brett Guthrie to discuss the Empower act. He is convinced that it will be beneficial to everyone. We have tried to explain how this would be harmful to our loved ones, how it will push them from their homes and into a place not capable of meeting their extensive needs. He said it is to only be used to help those who chose to move out of an institutional setting. We have asked him to put in safeguards to prevent the Empower act from being used against those who choose to stay in Intermediate Care Facilities.